

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for removing trialkylammonium formate from methylolalkanes ~~which have been~~ obtained by condensation of formaldehyde with a higher aldehyde, ~~which comprises~~ comprising

decomposing the trialkylammonium formate at elevated temperature, in the presence of a hydrogen-containing gas, over a catalyst comprising ruthenium supported on titanium dioxide.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the catalyst ~~has~~ comprises a ruthenium content of from 0.1 to 10% by weight.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in claim 1 or 2~~ of claim 1, wherein the titanium dioxide comprises shaped titanium dioxide bodies ~~which have been~~ obtained by treatment of commercial titanium dioxide, before or after shaping, with from 0.1 to 30% by weight of an acid in which titanium dioxide is sparingly soluble ~~are used~~.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process~~ of claim 1, ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ carried out at a temperature of from 100 to 250°C.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process~~ of claim 1, ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~ carried out at a pressure of from 1×10^6 to 15×10^6 Pa.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]] The process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5~~ of claim 1, carried out in the a hydrogenation reactor ~~of the hydrogenation process~~.

Claim 7 (Original): A catalyst comprising ruthenium supported on shaped titanium dioxide bodies, wherein the shaped titanium dioxide bodies are obtained by treatment of commercial titanium dioxide, before or after shaping, with from 0.1 to 30% by weight of an acid in which titanium dioxide is sparingly soluble.

Claim 8 (New): The process of claim 2, wherein the titanium dioxide comprises shaped titanium dioxide bodies obtained by treatment of commercial titanium dioxide, before or after shaping, with from 0.1 to 30% by weight of an acid in which titanium dioxide is sparingly soluble.

Claim 9 (New): The process of claim 2, carried out at a temperature of from 100 to 250°C.

Claim 10 (New): The process of claim 3, carried out at a temperature of from 100 to 250°C.

Claim 11 (New): The process of claim 2, carried out at a pressure of from 1×10^6 to 15×10^6 Pa.

Claim 12 (New): The process of claim 3, carried out at a pressure of from 1×10^6 to 15×10^6 Pa.

Claim 13 (New): The process of claim 4, carried out at a pressure of from 1×10^6 to 15×10^6 Pa.

Claim 14 (New): The process of claim 2, carried out in a hydrogenation reactor.

Claim 15 (New): The process of claim 3, carried out in a hydrogenation reactor.

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 4, carried out in a hydrogenation reactor.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 5, carried out in a hydrogenation reactor.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 1, carried out at a temperature of from 120 to 180°C.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 2, carried out at a temperature of from 120 to 180°C.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 3, carried out at a temperature of from 120 to 180°C.